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The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria

Subject: Adaptive Equipment for Basic Activities of Daily Living (bADLs)
Last Review: November 8, 2023*
Past Revisions: January 20, 2022

***Please note: Most current content changes will be highlighted in yellow.**

Description of Service or Procedure

Adaptive equipment for basic activities of daily living are devices that enhance independence, for members experiencing medical conditions that impair their ability to perform basic activities of daily living. Basic activities of daily living include feeding, bathing, toileting, **hygiene, grooming,** and dressing.

Adaptive equipment for bADLs must fit the definition of durable medical equipment (DME) as per Vermont Medicaid Health Care Administrative Rule [\(HCAR\) 4.209](#):

- (a) Are primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose,
- (b) Are generally not useful to an individual in the absence of disability, illness, or injury,
- (c) Can withstand repeated use, and
- (d) Can be reusable or removable.

This definition is in accordance with the federal Medicaid definition of equipment and appliances found at 42 CFR §440.70(b)(3)(ii).

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule or Health Care Administrative Rules that pertain to the member's aid category. Prior Authorization (PA) is only valid if the member is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

Medicaid Rule

Medicaid and Health Care Administrative Rules can be found at <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar/adopted-rules>

7102.2 Prior Authorization Determination
4.101 Medical Necessity for Covered Services



- 4.104 Medicaid Non-Covered Services
- 4.106 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services
- 4.209 Durable Medical Equipment

Coverage Position

Adaptive equipment for bADLs may be covered for members:

- When the device is prescribed by a licensed medical provider, enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice as described on the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation's website*, Statute, or rule who is knowledgeable regarding adaptive equipment for bADLs and who provides medical care to the member AND
- When the clinical criteria below are met.

* Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Coverage Criteria

Adaptive equipment for bADLs may be covered for members who:

- Are not able to perform a basic activity of daily living (bADL) without assistance due to a medical condition AND
- Require specialized adaptive equipment to perform the bADL due to:
 - Impaired motor control, including hypotonicity, hypertonicity, athetosis, ataxia, spasticity, rigidity, tremors, or muscle spasming
 - Limited range of motion
 - Muscle weakness or
 - Body habitus that prevents sufficient reach to perform bADLs
- Have had a successful trial, conducted by a physical or occupational therapist or a speech language pathologist, of the requested device

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): Vermont Medicaid will provide comprehensive services and furnish all Medicaid coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members under age 21.

Please note, Vermont Medicaid Clinical Criteria is reviewed based on available literature, evidence-based guidelines/standards, Medicaid rule and policy, and Medicare coverage determinations that may be appropriate to incorporate when applicable.

Clinical criteria for repeat service or procedure

- When the device no longer meets the medical needs of the member, OR
- When the device is no longer functional through normal wear (expected to last at least 8 years).

See the DME limitation list on the VT Medicaid Portal under Provider Resources at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/resources>.

Type of service or procedure covered

Adaptive equipment for bADLs.

Examples of adaptive equipment include adaptive feeding utensils, universal cuffs, dressing sticks, reachers, button hooks, wiping tools, long handled sponges.

Type of service or procedure not covered (this list may not be all inclusive)

- More than one of each adaptive device for one member.
- Adaptive equipment for the performance of activities other than bADLs.
- Home modifications. Assistance with home modifications may be available through Long Term Care Medicaid: <https://www.greenmountaincare.org/long-term-care-medicaid>.
- Items reimbursed as a component of an institutional payment (HCAR 4.209.4(j)).

Coding guidelines

Please see the Medicaid Portal at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/feeSchedule> for fee schedules, code coverage, and applicable requirements.

There is no specific code for adaptive equipment.

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